

Codebook for:

Pettigrew, Stephen; Owen, Karen; Wanless, Emily, 2014, "U.S. House Primary Election Results (1956-2010)", <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/26448>, Harvard Dataverse.

Note: For the 2012 through 2018 data, see:

Miller, Michael G., and Camberg, Nikki, 2020, "U.S. House Primary Election Results (2012-2018)", <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/CXVMSY>, Harvard Dataverse.

District level variables:

raceid: [year,state,district,party]. Primaries that spawned a runoff have “_p” appended to the end. The runoff that was spawned have a “_r” appended to the end

year: year of election

stdc: first two numbers are the state code (01: Alabama, 02: Alaska, 50: Wyoming), second two numbers are the district number

state: name of the state

seat: 0=Republican incumbent
1=Democratic incumbent
2=Open seat held by Republicans
3=Open seat held by Democrats
4=Open seat, new (reapportionment)
5=Two incumbents (redistricting)

party: 0=Republican; 1=Democratic

redist: 1=redistricted boundaries; 0=not redistricted

fr: 0 = not freshman
1 = freshman elected previous general election
2 = freshman elected in special election more than 1 year earlier
3 = freshmen elected in a special election during this election year
9 = seat not defended by major party incumbent

law: 0=race used an open primary system
1=race used a closed primary system
2=race used a semi-open system; Dems/Reps must vote in their party’s primary, but if they aren’t registered with a party they can vote with the Dems and/or Republicans
3=multi-party ballot; candidate with most votes by party won the party’s nomination

4=modified; Dems/Reps could vote with only their party, but unaffiliated voters could register with the Dems or Reps to vote in that party's primary

candnumber: total number of candidates running in the primary

prez: presidential two-party vote for this party in the district in the previous election cycle

vote: congressional two-party vote for this party in the district in the previous election cycle

incname: name of the seat's incumbent at the time of the primary

type: 0=unopposed primary
1=opposed primary
2=caucus/convention
3=no candidate

Candidate-level variables:

candidate: candidate's name

candvotes: actual number of votes for the candidate in the primary

tvotes: total number of votes cast in this party's primary

candpct: percentage of votes received by the primary candidate (candvotes/tvotes)

winner: 0 = candidate lost election; 1 = candidate won election

gender: 0 = candidate is male; 1 = candidate is female

qual: 0=not quality; 1=quality; 2=incumbent; 3=challenger is former US Representative

office: 30 current incumbent
29 state wide elected office (governor, lieutenant governor)
28 state senator
27 state representative
26 mayor
25 judge (elected)
24 district or prosecuting attorney
23 city council member
22 other elected office
21 previous incumbent in most recent Congress who lost
20 former House member (not most recent Congress)
19 former senator
18 attorney general
17 state's attorney
16 state commissioner

15 alderman
14 sheriff
13 treasurer
12 businessman/business owner
11 journalist
10 lawyer
9 judge (non-elected)
8 minister
7 farmer/rancher
6 military
5 local party leader/activist
4 doctor/dentist/vet
3 teacher/professor/educator
2 other government-non-elected/former congressional aide or advisor
0 indicates no electoral experience

runoff

0 – primary is in a state that does not use run-offs. Or, primary is in a state with runoffs, but this primary did not spawn a runoff
1 – this primary spawned a runoff election
2 – this election *is* a runoff primary election